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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 041465-5061

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

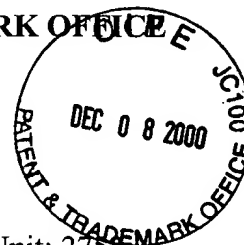
Tadashi NOGUCHI et al.

Application No.: 09/266,780

Filed: March 12, 1999

For: INFORMATION RECORDING)
APPARATUS, INFORMATION)
RECORDING AND REPRODUCING)
APPARATUS AND RECORD MEDIUM)

RECEIVED)
DEC 18 2000)
Technology Center 2600)



Group Art Unit: 2755

Examiner: Unassigned

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO-1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of a European Search Report is attached together with the document cited therein. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the document and evidence that consideration by making the appropriate notation on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the document is material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the document does not constitute "prior art" under United

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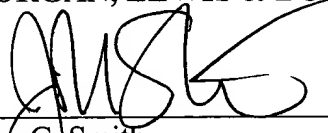
States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 8, 2000

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